

## LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of measuring an analyte concentration in body fluid in an animal body having skin and subcutaneous soft tissue that includes body fluid, said method comprising:

(a) providing an analyte measuring device, including:

(i) an analyte sensing element, having a sharpened distal end to facilitate introduction into said animal body and further having an indicating electrode covered by an absorbent or spreading layer forming an exterior surface of said analyte sensing element;

(ii) an electric power, data processing and display device adapted to mate to said analyte sensing element and activate said analyte sensing element by applying electric power to it and adapted to receive said raw analyte measurement and to compute and display a refined analyte measurement, related to said raw analyte measurement;

(b) introducing said analyte sensing element into said animal body subcutaneous soft tissue, thereby placing said absorbent layer into contact with said animal body subcutaneous soft tissue and said body fluid;

(c) permitting said absorbent layer to become saturated with body fluids~~fluid~~;

(d) removing said indicating electrode from said body soft tissue;

(e) activating said analyte sensing element after removing said indicating electrode from said body soft tissue by applying electric power to said analyte sensing elementit, thereby causing said analyte sensing element to form a raw analyte measurement; and

(f) receiving said raw analyte measurement in said electric power, data processing and display device and computing and displaying a refined analyte measurement, related to said raw analyte measurement.

2-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein an enzyme layer is interposed between said indicating electrode and said absorbent layer.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein a redox mediator layer is interposed between an enzyme layer and said indicating electrode.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein a permselective layer is interposed between an enzyme layer and said absorbent layer.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein an interferent excluding layer is interposed between an enzyme layer and said absorbent layer.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising removing said analyte sensing element~~ wherein, in step (d), said analyte sensing element is removed from said animal body within about 20 seconds of being introduced into said animal body.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising removing said analyte sensing element~~ wherein, in step (d), said analyte sensing element is removed from said animal body within about 5 seconds of being introduced into said animal body.

32. (Currently Amended) A method of measuring an analyte concentration in body fluid in an animal body, said method comprising:

providing an analyte sensing element having an indicating electrode covered by an absorbent layer forming an exterior surface of said analyte sensing element;

introducing said analyte sensing element into soft tissue of said animal body, thereby placing said absorbent layer into contact with said animal body soft tissue and said body fluid;

removing said analyte sensing element from said animal body and then  
activating said analyte sensing element, thereby causing said analyte sensing element  
to form an analyte measurement; and  
receiving said analyte measurement.

33. (Cancelled).

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3332, further comprising permitting said  
absorbent layer to become saturated with body fluids prior to removing said analyte  
sensing element from said animal body.

3435. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32, further comprising removing said  
analyte sensing element from said animal body within about 20 seconds of being  
introduced into said animal body.

3536. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32, further comprising removing said  
analyte sensing element from said animal body within about 5 seconds of being  
introduced into said animal body.

3637. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

providing an analyte sensing element having an indicating electrode adapted to  
indicate an analyte concentration in a fluid in contact with the indicating electrode; and

covering the analyte sensing element with an absorbent layer, forming an  
exterior surface of said analyte sensing element, with the absorbent layer being  
~~adapted to facilitate the covered analyte sensing element to be introduced into contact~~  
~~with soft tissue of an animal body, and to allow body fluid of the animal body to be in~~  
contact with the indicating electrode upon introduction of the covered analyte sensing  
element into soft tissue of an animal body, enabling an analyte concentration in the  
body fluid of the animal to be indicated.

38. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein an interferent excluding layer is interposed between an enzyme layer and said indicating electrode.

39. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein said absorbent layer comprises carboxymethylcellulose.

40. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein said absorbent layer comprises gelatin.

41. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein said absorbent layer comprises a microporous coating comprising inorganic particles in a polymeric binder.

42. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein an interferent excluding layer is interposed between an enzyme layer and said indicating electrode.

43. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein said absorbent layer comprises carboxymethylcellulose.

44. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein said absorbent layer comprises gelatin.

45. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein said absorbent layer comprises a microporous coating comprising inorganic particles in a polymeric binder.